



State of Connecticut

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**Testimony in Support of
House Bill No. 5954, An Act Establishing a Set-Aside Program
for Disabled Veteran Contractors
Veterans' Affairs Committee
Tuesday, February 17, 2015**

I would like to thank Chairwoman Flexer, Chairman Hennessey, Ranking Member Martin, and Ranking Member Yaccarino for considering H.B. 5954, An Act Establishing a Set-Aside Program for Disabled Veteran Contractors.

I speak today on behalf of disabled veterans across our state who, because of their disabilities, face unique challenges as business owners. Many of our veterans have returned home with both physical and mental wounds endured while serving our country and find integrating back into civilian life daunting. For those who run their own business, we owe them the same competitive advantage that other "minority business enterprises" enjoy.

Many elected officials, including myself, have been approached by constituents who feel that disabled veterans are often overlooked and are not granted the protections they deserve. In past sessions, this committee has come together on a bi-partisan basis to promote similar legislation.

This legislation is not merely to applaud the tremendous sacrifices our veterans have made for us. Equally important, it is about ensuring disabled veterans are given a level playing field with other contractors throughout the state. These veterans deserve the opportunity to grow and operate successful businesses. It is my hope we can come together on a bi-partisan basis to support this legislation.

Once again, thank you for your consideration.